

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-10 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is presently amended to include the limitation of previous claim 3. Claim 3 and 4 are cancelled. A new claim 11 is presented having all the features of previous claim 1 and claim 6. The specification has been amended to remove a reference to Appendix 1 and 2. Both appendices are filed as additional pages 13-14 and 15-17 of the specification (Table 0 and 1, respectively). A new abstract is submitted.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9 and 10 were rejected as being anticipated by Hewgill. Claims 1-4, 9 and 10 were rejected as being anticipated by Meyer. However, the examiner suggested to restrict the present claims so as to distinguish them from Meyer. Meyer relates to coal mines and not to oil or gas wells. Following the examiner's suggestion, claim 1 now includes a limitation to oil and gas wells. Claim 1 further includes the elements of previous claim 3 not anticipated by Hewgill. Therefore amended claim 1 should be in a proper form for allowance.

New claim 11 is based on claim 6, which was objected to but deemed allowable if including the features of previous claim 1.

The remaining claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 are deemed patentable as referring to a patentable claim 1.

In the light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant believes that the present application and claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9-11 are in proper condition for allowance. Such allowance is earnestly requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No 19-0615 (57.0329) any applicable fees or credits.

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Amdt. dated March 30, 2003
Reply to Office action of Dec. 31, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Schlather', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Schlather
Reg. No.: 45,081
Attorney for Applicants

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Stephen Schlather
Schlumberger Technology Corporation
IP Dept, Well Stimulation
110 Schlumberger Drive MD1
Sugarland, Texas 77478